

### REMARKS

Claims 21-51 were pending in this application. Claims 27-35 are allowed. Claims 23 and 24 stand objected to. Claims 21-22, 25-26 and 36-51 stand rejected. Claims 21 and 36-51 were cancelled. Claims 22-23 and 25 were amended. Claims 22-35 remain in the application.

Claims 23, 24 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 23 has been so rewritten. Claim 24 depends from Claim 23.

Claims 21, 22, 25, 26, 36, 38-51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kumada et al. (US Patent No. 6,643,029). Claim 37 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kumada as applied to claim 36, and further in view of Kumada (US Patent No. 6,459, 436).

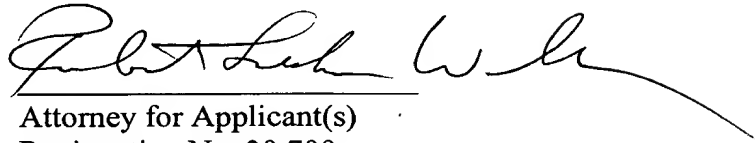
Claims 21 and 36-51 were cancelled.

Claims 22 and 25 were amended to depend from allowable Claim 23. Claim 26 depends from Claim 25.

It is believed that these changes now make the claims clear and definite and, if there are any problems with these changes, Applicants' attorney would appreciate a telephone call.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed none of the references, taken singly or in combination, disclose the claimed invention. Accordingly, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance, the notice of which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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